

## AMENDMENTS

### In the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) An electret filter medium, comprising a lactic acid polymer having a molar ratio of an L-lactic acid monomer to a D-lactic acid monomer in the range from 100 to 85 : 0 to 15 ~~or from 0 to 15 : 85 to 100~~.

2. (Original) The electret filter medium according to Claim 1, wherein it is mainly composed of a lactic acid polymer that produces an endotherm of at least 0.5 J/g accompanied with crystal fusion.

3. (Currently Amended) The electret filter medium according to Claim 1, wherein the content of lactide is at most 15% based on the weight of the medium.

4. (Original) The electret filter medium according to Claim 1, wherein it has a surface charge density of at least  $1.2 \times 10^{-9} / \text{cm}^2$ .

5. (Currently Amended) The electret filter medium according to Claim 1, ~~wherein~~ further comprising 0.01 to 0.3 parts by weight of a nucleating agent is blended based on 100 parts by weight of the lactic acid polymer.

6. (Currently Amended) A process for producing the electret filter medium according to Claim 1, comprising:

applying a direct current corona electric field to a nonwoven fabric while heating it to a temperature of 60°C to 140°C, wherein the nonwoven fabric comprises fibers mainly composed of a lactic acid polymer; and

then cooling it the nonwoven fabric to a temperature of 40°C or lower while applying the electric field ~~to it~~ to the nonwoven fabric.

7. (New) An electret filter medium, comprising a lactic acid polymer having a molar ratio of an L-lactic acid monomer to a D-lactic acid monomer in the range from 0 to 15 : 85 to 100.

8. (New) The electret filter medium according to Claim 7, wherein it is mainly composed of a lactic acid polymer that produces an endotherm of at least 0.5 J/g accompanied with crystal fusion.

9. (New) The electret filter medium according to Claim 7, wherein the content of lactide is at most 15% based on the weight of the medium.

10. (New) The electret filter medium according to Claim 7, wherein it has a surface charge density of at least  $1.2 \times 10^{-9} / \text{cm}^2$ .

11. (New) The electret filter medium according to Claim 7, further comprising 0.01 to 0.3 parts by weight of a nucleating agent based on 100 parts by weight of the lactic acid polymer.

12. (New) A process for producing the electret filter medium according to Claim 7, comprising:

applying a direct current corona electric field to a nonwoven fabric while heating the nonwoven fabric to a temperature of 60°C to 140°C, wherein the nonwoven fabric comprises fibers mainly composed of a lactic acid polymer; and

then cooling the nonwoven fabric to a temperature of 40°C or lower while applying the electric field to the nonwoven fabric.